



New Democrat Coalition Principles for a Tough and Smart National Security Strategy

New Dems are committed to a tough and smart national security strategy that secures our homeland and protects our values. Our first responsibility as Members of Congress is to keep America safe. We need to invest in a 21st century military force and in national security agencies that adapt to modern challenges and eliminate terrorist threats without reckless interventions. We cannot ignore the indispensable role diplomacy and development play in meeting our most pressing security challenges and demonstrating American leadership in global affairs. We must advance a comprehensive national security policy that focuses on what really keeps Americans safe. While appropriately balancing security and privacy, we need to combat terrorism at home and abroad, build robust partnerships and people-to-people ties overseas, streamline outdated components of the Department of Defense, advance the use of innovative technologies, strengthen our cybersecurity infrastructure, and fully resource the diplomatic and development tools in our national security arsenal. By doing so, we can ensure that Americans have the security they need to thrive economically. We must do all this while upholding core American values of inclusivity and diversity without giving in to xenophobia that helps our enemies and foolishly risks isolating America from an interconnected world that largely benefits American interests. While we reserve the right to act alone militarily when necessary, we are strongest when we act multilaterally with allies and avoid creating chaos and instability. When America is economically prosperous and stays true to its values, we have the capacity to be a better global leader, stamp out threats, and remain the greatest military power in the world.

Defeat Terrorism Abroad and Protect American Families at Home

- **Defeat Terrorism at Home and Prevent it Abroad**
 - Defeat organizations like the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda while building partner capacity and strengthening local allies to deny foreign ground to terrorists.
 - Fully fund federal, state, and local homeland security and law enforcement programs that prioritize counter-terrorism.
 - Deny domestic terrorists the weapons and resources they use to perpetrate atrocities in a manner that protects the constitutional rights of Americans.
 - Prevent the chaos and instability upon which terrorist organizations prey by fully funding diplomatic and development initiatives that promote good governance, political accountability, and economic progress, among allies and otherwise.
 - Ensure we effectively leverage a strong military to back diplomatic and development programs.
 - Continue to wage a vigorous global counterterrorism campaign that emphasizes America's unmatched intelligence and surveillance capabilities.
- **Preserve the Values that Make Us American**
 - Promote American values including global human rights, non-discrimination, equality, and the integration of disenfranchised immigrant communities to work with, and not against, them. We are a nation founded by refugees and we must live up to our values.
 - Reject incendiary, divisive rhetoric that empowers terrorist recruitment at home and abroad.
 - Ensure law enforcement agencies properly balance privacy and innovation in today's age of technology.
- **Support Our Troops on and off the Battlefield**
 - End sequestration to ensure our troops on the frontlines and law enforcement agencies have the tools they need and that we invest in opportunity and innovation at home.
 - Provide the support our troops need to transition to civilian life with job training and medical care.
 - Develop, recruit, and maintain the diverse, skilled members of the Armed Services that future challenges will require, particularly including individuals with a wide range of backgrounds and language abilities, while improving the participation and roles of minorities and women in our forces.



Make Smart, Streamlined National Security Investments

- **Buy Smart and Streamline the Military to Build a Force for the Future**
 - Enact acquisition reform to reduce impediments to competition and ensure the government procures the right products and systems in the most efficient, effective, and affordable manner possible.
 - Tap the energy and ideas of the private sector by providing both traditional and non-traditional suppliers clear guidance on key technology gaps and emerging requirements.
 - Fund a robust R&D budget in programs like DARPA and CDC to maintain technological superiority and make the investments in advanced technologies critical to winning and deterring future conflicts.
 - Require our allies to meet common goals of contributing more resources to global security.
 - Support continued investment in DOD's energy security and resiliency programs.
 - Set aside arbitrary staffing levels and instead leverage the full capabilities, experience, and flexibility of our military, civilian, and contractor workforces by putting mission success first.
- **Strengthen Our Nation's Cyber Defenses**
 - Build on the Cybersecurity Act of 2015 and push for international norms and rules in the cyber realm.
 - Encourage the technological advancements that improve Americans' lives and strengthen our economy while also ensuring that our increasingly interconnected devices are safe and secure.
 - Help the private sector and non-governmental organizations become more secure through information sharing, broader cyber awareness, and the application of appropriate cybersecurity tools to identify vulnerabilities, protect critical infrastructure, and prevent attacks before they occur.
 - Support the investments necessary for the U.S. government to protect its data, computers, and systems while also improving responses to cyber attacks across multiple agencies.

Increase Engagement Abroad without Risky, Unnecessary Interventions

- **Ensure U.S. National Security Policies Promote Economic Growth and Engagement**
 - Effectively enforce sanctions against bad actors like Iran and North Korea to counter the devastating consequences of trafficking, development, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
 - Boost economic prosperity and encourage constructive trade and international development to build strong civil societies that respect the rule of law and advance avenues of hope which prevent conflict and prevent the need for costly military interventions.
 - Advance the U.S. as an international leader by writing rules for trade and globalization that elevate the standards for 21st century trade agreements and enable us to robustly enforce trade obligations.
- **Strengthen Our Relationships with Existing Allies as a Force for Global Stability**
 - Recommit to our European and NATO allies in the face of Russian aggression and other international threats.
 - Strengthen our relationships with Israel, Egypt, and our Middle East partners to take a more active role in leading diplomatic efforts to form new alliances in the region and ensure long-term political stability.
 - Bolster people-to-people ties to build enduring relationships that expand our network of contacts and increase access to critical information.
 - Preserve and promote global commerce and ensure international sea lanes and norms are respected.
 - Expand engagement in the Asia-Pacific by working with regional partners like India and Pacific Rim countries to preserve U.S. influence, strengthen civil society, and boost economic collaboration in the region.
 - Stand by commitments to U.S. alliances, increase engagement with countries and people whenever possible, and continue to share the burden of security arrangements.